
John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

1-14-1971

To: John Acuff

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January 14, 1971

Mr. John Acuff
276 E. 12th
Cookeville, Tennessee 38501

Dear John:

The weekend with you and the other brother and sisters was a highlight of the last twelve months in my life. I am so thankful to God for the way 1971 began with the worship and fellowship with you and the others at Bob and Mayme's who are so close to me, and who are becoming close and very precious to Sue as well.

The time in your office Monday afternoon was great. Thank you for allowing Christ to so rule in your life that you could be as open and as direct and as personal as you were. God is working a great person within you and that person ruled and controlled and gripped by Christ becomes more attractive each time I am with you. Thank you for what you have done this past twelve months to bless my life. I can't say enough about the encouragement of your letters. I am often times almost shocked at the way you can pierce my superficiality and get to the core need in my own life as well as in the lives of others. It must come out of your own honest relationship with Jesus.

You mentioned in your last letter and then it came up again in our conversation on Monday, your question about baptism. I immediately thought of three articles that appeared in the January 1968 issue of Mission that I thought you might enjoy reading. All three of the men who wrote these articles are scholars whom I respect. I would appreciate your studying them and sometime in the future responding to them in view of your own questions. There are at least two books I would like to see you get and study. One is G. R. Beasley-Murray's book, Baptism Today and Tomorrow, New York, St. Martin's Press, 1966; and Rudolph Schnackenburg's Baptism in the Thought of St. Paul, (Oxford): Basil Black Well, 1964. Beasley-Murray's book is the easier of the two to read. Schnackenburg's book is a Biblical theology that will take you several sessions to wade through, but it has the kind of basic Biblical theology that is missing within our fellowship. I hope that you and I can carry on a continuing discussion and study, not only of this, but other questions that come up in both of our spiritual adventures from time to time.

I want you to keep praying about my responsibility to do the will of God. Pray that I will have wisdom regarding His will and I'll have the courage to do what I believe is His will. I sense the need for your prayers regarding this specific request more than ever.

I didn't have enough time with Carolyn during our trip. Please tell her of my regret at that. There were simply too many people at Bob and Mayme's for any of us to spend much time with each other in personal relationship. I treasure my friendship with Carolyn and regret that we didn't have time to talk seriously. Don't neglect her, brother. She is the greatest thing next to Jesus Christ in your life.

We arrived home safely Tuesday afternoon. It was great to get John back in the family circle and have a time of praise and thanksgiving to our heavenly Father for keeping us all safely until we could get back together. Thanks again for the beautiful visit Monday afternoon and for the quality of your witness to the work of God in Jesus Christ today.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

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